

CLAIMS

1. A retractable barrier system comprising a support member, a spool supported for rotation by the support member, a spring arranged to provide a biasing load to the spool, and a skirt arranged to deflect water which would otherwise impinge on
5 the spring.
2. A system according to Claim 1 wherein, in use, the spring is located beneath the spool.
3. A system according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the skirt is carried by the spool.
- 10 4. A system according to Claim 3, wherein the spool and the skirt are integral with one another.
5. A system according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising a cover forming, with the skirt, a closed compartment within which the spring is housed.
- 15 6. A system according to Claim 5, wherein the cover is secured to the skirt by at least one of a snap-fit coupling, an adhesive, and a screw-threaded coupling.
7. A system according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a fixed spindle supported by the support member and upon which the spool is mounted for rotation.

8. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the spring includes an end part anchored to the spindle or the support member and a second end part arranged to drive the spool.
9. A system according to any of the preceding claims wherein at least a portion
5 of the spring is provided with a water-resistant or corrosion-resistant coating.
10. A system according to Claim 9, wherein the coating comprises a PTFE layer.
11. A retractable barrier system comprising a support member, a spool supported for rotation by the support member, and a spring arranged to apply a biasing load to the spool, wherein at least a portion of the spring is provided with a corrosion-
10 resistant or water-resistant coating.